

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DPW-01 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 /096 W

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R 291035Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4325

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USUN NEW YORK 826

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SAIGON 3742

E.OXM 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, MOPS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: "PRG" WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAIGON

1. "PRG" SPOKESMAN AT WEEKLY SAIGON PRESS CONFERENCE WAS NOT ASKED ABOUT AND MADE NO MENTION OF AMERICANS OR OTHER FOREIGNERS CAUGHT IN COMMUNIST-HELD TERRITORY.

2. A MAJOR THEME OF BOTH THE SPOKESMAN'S PREPARED STATEMENT AND LATER QUESTIONING WAS REFUGEES. SPOKESMAN SAID GVN WAS "SPARING NO PSYWAR TRICK OR METHOD OF MURDER" TO "FORCE" POPULATION TO "GO WITH IT" AND DECRIED U.S. REQUESTS TO PHILIPPINES AND TAIWAN " TO ASSIST IN ITS FORCIBLE DISPLACEMENT OF POPULATION." ANSWERING A QUESTION, SPOKESMAN DENIED ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN GVN AND "PRG" ON GROUNDS THAT "PRG" REGARDS "THIEU CLIQUE" AS AN "OBSTACLE" AND HAS STATED
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REPEATEDLY SINCE OCTOBER 8, 1974, THAT IT MUST BE TOPPLED

BEFORE ANY GVN/"PRG" NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESUMED. THE SPOKESMAN RATHER CLUMSILY SIDESTEPED A VIETNAMESE JOURNALIST'S QUESTION AS TO HOW THE ARVN COULD HAVE "FORCED" A MILLION PEOPLE TO EVACUATE WITH IT IN FACE OF "PRG" CLAIMS THAT "THE PEOPLE" WHO "ROSE UP" WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE "ROTTEN" ARVN. ALSO, WHEN HE CITED AN AFP REPORT OF ARVN BULLDOZERS BEING USED AGAINST REFUGEES, ANNOYED NEWSMEN ASKED HIM ABOUT CREDENTIALS OF FRENCHMAN QUOTED BY AFP TO THIS EFFECT. SPOKESMAN LAMELY RETORTED THAT BELIEVING WESTERN PRESS OR NOT WAS "EVERYBODY'S RIGHT."

3. SPOKESMAN CROWED OVER RECENT COMMUNIST ACQUISITIONS, VOWING THAT COMMUNISTS WOULD "PERSIST IN AND STEP UP THEIR STRUGGLE" AND ASSERTING THAT "CERTAINLY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND ARMY ARE MARCHING FORWARD TO THEIR FINAL VICTORY.Z HE AGAIN CITED THE "PRG" OCTOBER 8 STATEMENT AS " THE ONLY CORRECT ROAD" TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR, BUT CONCEDED UNDER QUESTIONING THAT THE EXTENT OF THE "THIEU CLIQUE" WHICH MUST BE OVERTHROWN " HAS NOT BEEN DESCRIBED CLEARLY."

4. COMMENT: THE "PRG" SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS ON THE REFUGEES ARE AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO OBSCURE THE CLEAR FACT THAT THE POPULATION OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AND MR-1 ARE FLEETING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY IN VAST NUMBERS AND THE NUMEROUS REPORTED INSTANCES IN WHICH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY HAS ACTUALLY SHELLED AND ATTACKED COLUMNS OF THESE FLEEING REFUGEES.
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